

HB 91 -- COUNTY CRIME REDUCTION FUND

CO-SPONSORS: Mayer, Crowell, Jetton, Lipke (157)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Crime Prevention and Public Safety by a vote of 16 to 1.

This bill allows county commissions to create county crime reduction funds and specifies the purposes for which the money in the funds can be spent.

The bill allows the court to order restorative justice methods in cases where there is a suspended imposition or execution of sentence and to order individuals who have a suspended imposition or execution of sentence for a misdemeanor to make a payment of up to \$1,000 to the county crime reduction fund.

The bill allows the court to order a payment of up to \$1,000 to the county crime reduction fund as a condition of probation. A judge can only order such a condition of probation if the county crime reduction fund was established prior to sentencing. A judge cannot have any direct supervisory or administrative control over a fund to which he or she orders probationers to make payments. A defendant can refuse probation that includes payments to a county crime reduction fund as a condition, but probation cannot be revoked solely for failure to make payments to the fund, except under certain circumstances.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Net Cost to General Revenue Fund of \$0 to Unknown in FY 2004, FY 2005, and FY 2006. Estimated Net Effect to State School Moneys Fund of \$0 in FY 2004, FY 2005, and FY 2006. Estimated Net Effect to County Crime Reduction Fund of \$0 in FY 2004, FY 2005, and FY 2006. Estimated Net Effect to Certain School Districts of \$0 in FY 2004, FY 2005, and FY 2006. Fiscal impact would be dependent upon the County Commission establishing a Crime Reduction Fund and upon the number of cases that would be suspended without a fine.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill provides another way to help pay for the cost of law enforcement. Budget constraints exist at the county level, as well as at the state level. This has forced many sheriffs' departments to go short-staffed. Wayne County, for example, is now down to having only two deputies on duty at one time, and they must cover an area of more than 750 square miles. Often, the county sheriff's department must house parole violators for several days before they can be transferred to the Department of Corrections. Most of those people need medical care of some kind, which the county has to pay for. Shannon County is in even worse shape, with one deputy covering 990 square miles. Shannon County incurred more than \$20,000 in

medical bills for jailed inmates last year. These are the types of costs that a crime reduction fund can help cover.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Mayer; Larry Plunkett, Wayne County Sheriff; Clinton Reeves, Shannon County Sheriff; Tony Orchard, Shannon County Presiding Commissioner; Missouri Sheriffs' Association; and Missouri Chiefs of Police.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Richard Smreker, Senior Legislative Analyst